

# Student Centered Instruction



## Discovery Middle School is Making it Happen!



**WE ARE** Discovery Middle School, one of three middle schools in the Penn Harris Madison School Corporation, is a suburban school located in St. Joseph County, Indiana. The corporation enrollment is over 11,000 students with 848 students at Discovery. Mrs. Harper, principal; Mr. Kauffman, assistant principal; 2 counselors; a media specialist; and 41 teachers create an engaging learning environment for all students. We earned a National Blue Ribbon in 2006 and 2013.

**OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES** Our families live in the Granger community area. Ten percent of our student population is ENL with twenty-two different languages represented among those families. Eleven percent of our population has free/reduced meal status.

**OUR TEACHERS** Our teachers collaborate daily to create lessons that are engaging and they provide opportunities for students to apply their skills. Writing and reading are stressed in all content areas. We facilitate a 30-minute READ time each morning and we celebrate One Book One School each January. We are proud that we have the highest OverDrive checkout rate in our corporation!!

**OUR PROMISING PRACTICE** We pride ourselves as being a very student-centered school. Students ALWAYS come first! Teacher leaders consistently identify and develop best practices in all classrooms. Classrooms are engaging places where we make learning visible. Collaboration among students and among staff is a common practice at Discovery. We take risks to enhance learning and we create challenges for ourselves and our students when we try new things. We use assessments to promote growth for all the time! We embrace changes that meet our students' and adults' learning needs and we have high learning expectations for everyone! We believe reading and writing represent learning... every day, everywhere! By collaborating frequently on instruction and learning, we celebrate success. This year, moving to Chromebooks for all students further expanded our horizons.

We believe that one of the best ways for us to represent this engaging learning environment is through our practice of student-led conferencing. When students analyze their learning goals, they begin to monitor and celebrate their own growth. This exemplifies the power of student voice at our school.

**OUR STEPS** Over time we have created and refined our student-led conferencing process. Under Sources below, we share our complete philosophy and the steps needed to create successful student-led conferences in any school!! The proof of our success lies within our students' high standardized test scores AND in their performances here every day!

### OUR SOURCES

*Unleash the Power of Student Voice to Create a Culture of Learning* presentation was made at the 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Conference in Orlando. View our presentation [here](#).

For more information about our school or corporation, email: [sharper@phm.k12.in.us](mailto:sharper@phm.k12.in.us) or visit our website: <https://discovery.phmschools.org/>